

4780 | A quantity of ironmongery, household  
ware, mangle, and lot of other sundries.  
Terms, cash.



















NO. VIII.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

**THE SPANISH LAWS ON MINING.**  
Extracts from "Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain." By Alexander Humboldt. Translated from the Original French by John Black. Vol. III., Book II., Chap. ix.

In New Spain, the Proprietors of Mines, or the Government the half of the fifth, and the duty of one per cent, (*diecho del uno por ciento*), and the duty of coinage, called *diecho de moneda*, and the duty of the proprietor of the mine, called *diecho de minero*. This last duty, established in 1556 by a Law of Philip II., and increased at the end of the 17th century, amounted to 34 real p r marc of silver, and being computed in the marc with a half a real, the proprietor of the silver mine receiving back 64 real, and this 34 real are accounted *diecho de moneda* and *diecho de minero*.

The revenue which the Crown derives from 200,000 marcs of silver, equal to 1,700,000 piastres, (£557,000 sterling) is estimated thus :

In <i>Derecho de Moneda</i> .....	100
<i>Derecho de diecho de Ciento</i> .....	100
<i>Derecho de diecho de yenceno</i> .....	50
Total .....	250

(£557,170 sterling), nearly 164 per cent, of the amount of the silver produced, and the title of coinage, or the quality of the silver, we find the duties paid by the proprietors of mines only amount to 13 per cent. In more detailed explanation of the duties which the Government, we must distinguish the impost on the silver produced, during my stay at Guanajuato, where the silver contains less than thirty grains of gold, per marc of silver, the mint does not pay gold to the individuals.

As an input of silver, unalloyed with gold, at the rate of 1225.60 for the process of amalgamation, the grains, 135 marcs, at 15 deniers, 25 grains, — 137

Duty of one per cent and tenth 1225.60	
Duty of assaying .....	4
Duty of bozaco levied on the treat .....	4
Duty of bozaco levied on the metal .....	10
Duty of seigniorage .....	15

Remain to the proprietor .....

If the silver is procured by smelting, below 11 deniers 19 grains, we must add expenses of affine, which amount to 8 vedis per marc.

As an input of aurifer, at the rate of 12 deniers, 19 grains of silver, and 50 grains of gold, weighing 133 marcs, 2 ochaves, weighs 135 marcs, — 138

In silver .....

In gold .....

Duty of one per cent and tenth 1225.60	
Duty on gold at 2 per cent .....	5
Duty of assaying .....	4
Duty of bozaco .....	4
Apartado .....	91
Seigniorage .....	15

Remain to the proprietor .....

If the ingot is so rich in gold that it contains more than a half of the weight of metal, the expense of assay rises to 10 marcs, and the proprietor must pay the balance that the individual who delivers to the provincial treasury of Mexico, in change for specie, pays, in the first case Government 12 per cent, and in the second 19 per cent. This impost excites the proprietors of the mines to fraud, and to produce the precious metals. Notwithstanding experience of so many ages, the Court of Madrid has several times attempted to lessen the duty of seigniorage, without reducing the price of the metal, and thus discourage individuals from bringing in their precious metal. It is the same with direct impost of gold and silver, as with the profit which Government attempts to derive from the mercury, by the mining operations without diminishing proportion of impost on the diminish, and as the mercury, which is indispensable in the process of amalgamation, be furnished at a lower price.

Tables I. II. III. show that the Revenues paid on the silver extracted from the *Cerro de Potosi*, was as follows :—

During the first period, from 1st January, 1770, to 31st December, 1778, at the rate of 1000 marcs of silver, the proprietors paid 1000 marcs.

During the second period, from 1st January, 1779, to 19th July, 1786, "one and a half per cent., and afterwards the fifth of the remaining 98 piastres 4 real."

During the third period, between 20th July, 1786, and 31st December, 1789, "one and a half per cent., and the half of the fifth of the remaining 98 piastres 3 real per 100 piastres."

In the Kingdom of New Granada, the fraudulent sale of the gold of the country has very much increased since the navigation of the Rio Atrato was declared free. The dust, and even ingots, in place of being conveyed by Cali or Mompoz to the Mint of Bogota, are sent direct to the ports of Cartagena and Portobello, from whence they flow into the English colonies. The mouths of the Atrato and the Rio Sinu, were maintained at anchor in the month of April, several stations for smugglers. The vessels, which were laden with the produce of negroes from Africa, and from Philadelphia, in foreign vessels, are favorable to this contraband trade. According to what information I obtained from some persons in gold dust (*resaca*) stores at Cartagena, Mompoz, Buga, and Popayan, it would appear that we may estimate the quantity of silver which flows into the country, by the smuggling by Choco, Barbacoa, Antioquia, Popayan, and other places, which the fifth has not been at 2000 marcs.

In Peru, the exportation of silver on the fifth has not been paid is not so frequent by the South Sea coast, which is frequented by the sperm whale, and is frequented by the coast of the Amazon River. This great river connects two countries, a great disproportion prevails between the relative value of gold and silver. Brazil is most as profitable a market for the silver of Peru, than for the gold. The value of silver, and perhaps even a fourth of the silver extracted from the mines of Lima (*Touricocha*) and Chota (*Guallagaya*), is exported in contraband by Lamas and Chachapoy descending the river of Amazonas. The vessels, which are laden with the produce of the trade on that river, the fraudulent exportation of silver would become greater. The prejudice has been very much removed for the fine provinces which lie along the eastern diversity of the Cordillera fertilized by the Guallaga, the Ucayali, the Putumaz, and the Beni. They forget the wildness and solitude of these countries to take very much the operations of the smuggling, and the eastern diversity of the Cordillera Peru at 100,000 marcs.

In Chili, the gold which pays the fifth, that which does not, according to Ullao, is proportion of 3 to 2.

To Rio Dona of Florida.—A correspondent of the *Gazette of London* says, our Bob, as he is at a rat, cannot contrive to rid himself of his fleas. Pretty Scotch terrier and his undefined mongrel, he is short-necked, short-eared, as a turnspit. In the spring, he is a little more healthy, the fleas that he quarters in two positions, one along his back and the other on his chest ; where increase and multiply to an extent sufficient to make the life of Bob very uncomfortable, and to recommend him to the bath, but at the same time have answered, to be poured over an infected parts, and rubbed in with a knowing how instantly fatal such an application would be to insect life. The species of flea which infested him, he has now completely tumbled out by scours ; and hundreds find him as the rubbing proceeded. He was afterwards washed with a solution of common soda, in order to get rid of the oil of the flea, and assumed the air of a comfortable dog.

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